



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## Update on Memorial Day Weekend Camping

### **State Park Campsites Still Available, But Visitors Better Act Today**

SACRAMENTO – If high gas prices are driving you crazy, then drive the family to a State Park closer to home and cut the gas bill. For fun and economy this Memorial Day weekend, California's State Parks can't be beat.

Whether it's for a weekend or longer, camping at a California State Park campground has been called one of the best vacation deals around, with reasonable fees and plenty of picturesque scenery to enjoy. The parks are close to home and provide its many visitors a respite from the pressures of everyday life.

The upcoming Memorial Day weekend is the traditional kick-off for the summer camping and recreation season, the time when hundreds of thousands of campers find their campsites and make themselves at home in a private way at a public place.

But they are the campers who made reservations in advance. As always, the most popular campgrounds on the reservation system fill up fast and early.

But, don't despair. You may still get to pitch that tent.

According to State Parks' reservation system computers, there are a limited number of campsites that can be reserved for this weekend if people act quickly.

State Park officials cautioned that availability at any of the parks listed below can change daily, or even hourly. If you want to make a reservation, don't delay and do it now.

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### **Parks with Availability May 27, 28, and 29, 2005**

**Benbow Lake SRA  
Brannan Island SRA  
Colonel Allensworth SHP  
Del Norte Coast Redwoods SP  
Humboldt Redwoods SP  
Standish-Hickey SP  
Woodson Bridge SRA**

### **Parks with Availability for One or Two-Night Stays, May 27 and 29, 2005**

<b>Calaveras Big Trees SP</b>	<b>Malakoff Diggins SHP</b>
<b>Castle Crags SP</b>	<b>McConnell SRA</b>
<b>China Camp SP</b>	<b>Morro Strand SB</b>
<b>Clear Lake SP</b>	<b>Mount Diablo SP</b>
<b>Crystal Cove SP</b>	<b>Mt. San Jacinto SP</b>
<b>Cuyamaca Rancho SP</b>	<b>Portola Redwoods SP</b>
<b>D.L. Bliss SP</b>	<b>Prairie Creek Redwoods SP</b>
<b>Donner Memorial SP</b>	<b>Richardson Grove SP</b>
<b>Folsom Lake SRA</b>	<b>Salton Sea SRA</b>
<b>Freemont Peak SP</b>	<b>San Luis Reservoir SRA</b>
<b>Grizzly Creek Redwoods SP</b>	<b>Silverwood Lake SRA</b>
<b>Hendy Woods SP</b>	<b>Standish Hickey SP</b>
<b>Jedidiah Smith Redwoods SP</b>	<b>Sugar Pine Point SP</b>
<b>Lake Oroville SRA</b>	<b>Tahoe SRA</b>
<b>Lake Perris SRA</b>	<b>Woodson Bridge SRA</b>

Telephone toll-free 800-444 PARK (7275) if you want to make a California State Park reservation, or go on line to [www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

If you cannot find a reservation spot that you like, California State Parks also has first-come, first-served campsites. They include Plumas-Eureka State Park, Emma Wood State Beach and Indian Grinding Rock State Historic Park. Further information can be found on the State Parks website listed above.

The Memorial Day weekend is the first big camping weekend of the summer season and one of the big three camping weekends of the entire year, along with July 4<sup>th</sup> and Labor Day weekends.

No matter what your destination is or whether you have a reserved or a first-come, first-served site, it's always a good idea to call ahead and check on park conditions. And, while you're at it, the following are some helpful camping tips for year-round camping enjoyment:

Determine where you want to camp and be flexible. Have alternate parks in mind in case your first choice is booked.

Consider non-reservation sites. If the reservation sites are full, look for a first-come, first-served campground and try to arrive on a Wednesday or Thursday to maximize your chance to get a campsite. For information on first-come, first-served campgrounds call 1-800-777-0369.

Consider less busy days. Sometimes reservations are easier to make if you can camp mid-week.

Consider less popular camps. Southern coastal campgrounds can be full year-round. You may have better luck getting reservations at State Parks north of Santa Cruz or inland. Look for sites that are more remote, away from major metropolitan areas.

Remember the holiday crush. The closer you try to make reservations to a holiday (Memorial Day weekend, Fourth of July, or Labor Day weekend), the further north and inland you may need to go.

Consider cancellations. Check the Reserve America website, or call 1-800-444-7275. Cancellations are rare, but they do occur.

If the campground you want is booked, consider a day visit to the park for a picnic, hike or other outdoor recreation.

The "shoulder season" (April, May, September and October) is a good time to enjoy California State Parks. The weather during these months is usually good.

The annual State Park day-use pass, which is good for 12 months from the date purchased, is \$125 each. The annual pass provides access to more than 230 state parks.

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